

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Ferrari Opposes 2005-2007 Budget



The two-year state budget approved by the state House of Representatives takes more from 62nd District towns than it gives back, breaks the Constitutional Spending Cap, and could result in more employers leaving Connecticut, state Representative Richard F. Ferrari said today.

“This budget will increase spending by 12.2 percent over two years and once again, Barkhamsted, East Granby, Granby and New Hartford residents will pay far more in taxes than we will get back from the state in the form of grants for local schools and infrastructure improvements. While the budget increases education funding by \$62 million, Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven will be the primary beneficiaries. They will get \$20 million - or 32% - even though their student population accounts for only 11.9% of the statewide total,” said Representative Ferrari, R-62nd District, who opposed the spending package.

The budget (House Bill 6940) was approved 100 – 50 early Tuesday morning, with most Democrats supporting the proposal and most Republicans voting to reject it.

“Although our towns also are badly in need of increased state education funding, the liberal Democrats who control the General Assembly will never provide it. Unfortunately, even Democrat legislators who represent suburban and rural towns are unwilling to stand up for their communities in the face of pressure from their ultra-liberal leaders, who represent heavily Democratic districts in our big cities,” Representative Ferrari said.

“Similarly, state aid to Connecticut’s municipalities also will be increased by \$90 million, but those same cities, Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven, will get \$28 million or about 31% of the total increase. Again, one must question whether Democrat legislators from rural and suburban communities are truly representing the interests of their constituents,” Representative Ferrari said.

“This year, the state has an unexpected surplus amounting to about \$700 million. However, instead of being responsible and depositing it in the state’s rainy day fund or using it to help pay off the state debt, the Democrat controlled legislature decided to spend it to expand government social programs – even though it will mean taxes will have to be increased in the near future to sustain them,” Representative Ferrari said.

“In addition to gutting the surplus to pay for more social programs, this budget also raises taxes on Connecticut companies – even though they already pay a 7.5 percent tax on corporate profits. It will add surcharges of 20 percent for the 2006 business tax year and 15 percent in the 2007 business tax year. Those tax increases will discourage corporations from expanding their operations in Connecticut and make out-of-state businesses think twice about moving here and creating new jobs. That will mean fewer opportunities for all our citizens - and force our children to look elsewhere for employment,” Representative Ferrari said.

“While the news media has described this budget as a compromise negotiated between the General Assembly’s Democrat leaders and Governor Rell, the Democrats control the state legislature and the legislative agenda. Although I could not support this budget, I understand that for her to govern effectively, she has to work with the Democrat leadership. That means she sometimes has to agree to proposals she would not be forced to accept if Republicans had a majority in at least one of the chambers. This budget reflects that reality,” Representative Ferrari said.